

While I cannot endorse these provisions individually, they are ones we have carried previously to move this bill across the finish line.

What the Appropriations Committee has brought to the full Senate is an Interior Department appropriations bill that is almost exclusively appropriations.

I am proud that we propose for fiscal year 2020, proud that we propose for fiscal year 2019. In addition to the programs I have already highlighted, let me tell you about a few more accomplishments in this bill.

This bill rejects the administration's elimination of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and instead provides \$425 million equal to the enacted level. These funds will improve recreational access through our Federal lands, protect iconic landscapes, deliver grants to States and local governments to create and protect urban parks and open spaces, preserve the battlefields of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and give farmers and ranchers easements so they can steward their private lands in the face of development pressures.

Rather than following the administration's misguided proposal to eliminate funding for the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities, this bill actually provides an increase of \$2 million for each endowment, bringing the total to \$155 million for each. I am particularly proud that these funds will expand arts and humanities programs, create jobs, and support cultural institutions in every State.

The bill includes a 4-percent increase for the Indian Health Service and includes \$10 million in new grant funds to help Tribes address opioid addiction and substance abuse challenges in Indian Country, as Chairman MURKOWSKI talked about a little bit in her speech.

This bill fully funds the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program to assist local governments to improve their schools and roads and pay for public safety and law enforcement.

This bill maintains funding for the EPA at the fiscal year 2018-enacted level to protect our environment and public health. We have taken a strong position rejecting the devastating cuts the President has proposed for the third year in a row. Our bipartisan track record on EPA funding makes it loud and clear that such extreme proposals will continue to be viewed in Congress as dead on arrival.

Now, I feel strongly that keeping EPA funding flat year after year is insufficient to meet the true needs of EPA's clean water programs, clean air programs, State and Tribal assistance grants, environmental enforcement, and a score of other critical public health and environmental programs. While I recognize the bill before us is a compromise, I will continue to pursue increased funding for these critical EPA programs in future years.

I recognize there is always room for improvement, and I welcome all of our

colleagues to speak with me or Chairman MURKOWSKI if you have an idea on how to improve funding in this bill.

As I conclude, I want to emphasize how tremendous it has been to work with Chairman MURKOWSKI on this bipartisan bill. Even when we disagree, we have open discussions and listen to one another. That is the way Congress is supposed to work, and I am proud to be Senator MURKOWSKI's partner on this bill.

I look forward to working with our colleagues on this bill over this week so we can pass an interior appropriations bill that the American people can be proud of.

As Chairman MURKOWSKI talked about, we have had the assistance of a very able staff on both sides—on the minority side, headed up by Rachael Taylor. The whole staff on both sides is very capable and very able. My side was headed up by Rachael Taylor, Ryan Hunt, Melissa Zimmerman, and Teri Curtin. Over on the majority side, we thank Leif Fønnesbeck, Emy Lesofski, Nona McCoy, Chris Tomassi, and LaShawnda Smith.

They work night and day, and when we run into problems, as we know, they can be invaluable in helping us find the solutions to the problems we all face when we get into some of the contentious issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee again. We don't get to the place where we are today or to a level of consensus without getting a lot of good, hard work done. I appreciate his commitment in working through it and the relationship we have built. So thank you. Thank you very much.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS FLOODING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last July, heavy rain in Illinois caused severe flooding that led the Governor to declare disaster areas in Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Cook Counties. Thousands of buildings, including homes, businesses, and schools, were damaged by floodwaters. Thankfully, there were no fatalities as a result of this historic flooding.

Lake County was one of the areas most impacted by the flooding. When I visited two towns in this area—Libertyville and Gurnee—I saw street after street of flood damage to homes and businesses. It was heartbreaking.

I spoke with residents who were concerned about being able to recover from the flood and resulting damages and who voiced the need to find long-term solutions that will mitigate the impact of future flood events.

One year later, I am still awed by the dedication of the local first responders and county officials. State and local employees and volunteers came out to help at every level, from county emergency management agencies to the American Red Cross. Representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency worked closely with local officials to make sure communities had the resources needed to protect critical infrastructure and clean up when the water began to recede.

People from all around the region pitched in to help their neighbors and even strangers protect property and get back on their feet.

It has been challenging for Illinois to receive Federal aid after a disaster occurs. I led the Illinois delegation in supporting the Governor's request for a Federal disaster declaration for the four impacted counties, but unfortunately, the State did not receive aid after the flooding last July.

Currently, FEMA considers State population when reviewing States' requests for Federal assistance following a disaster. This puts highly populous States like Illinois at a disadvantage, relying on the premise that they can absorb more recovery costs after a disaster. Despite that, my colleagues in Congress and I will always stand ready to do whatever we can to provide Federal assistance to assist Illinois communities.

I introduced a bill to fix FEMA's disaster declaration formula—the Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Acts—and I will continue to push this bill to try and help States, both small and large, in times of need. Families in Illinois deserve a fair and transparent disaster declaration process that allows them to access Federal resources when they are needed most.

I want to thank everyone who was engaged in the response and mitigation efforts, and all those who were part of the recovery efforts since last July. Illinoisans always come together and rebuild, as we have done, and we are stronger for it.

REMEMBERING TEDDY DRAPER, SR.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Teddy Draper, Sr.—a brave Navajo code talker and a beloved teacher who has helped keep the Navajo language alive.

Mr. Draper was born in Canyon del Muerto—a beautiful and ancient canyon within the Canyon del Chelly National Monument—near Chinle, AZ. Mr. Draper was a longtime and popular Chinle resident and passed away December 14, 2017, at age 96. He was one of the last Navajo code talker survivors.

As a young boy, Mr. Draper grew up speaking Navajo and helping his family